

Applicant: Kari Hasanen et al.
Application No.: 09/980,061
Art Unit: 1731

Remarks

Claims 12-26 remain pending in the application. In the Office Action dated August 14, 2003, claims 12-26 were rejected as obvious over *Gustavsson et al.* in view of *Biondetti*.

The courtesy of the examiner during a telephone interview conducted on September 23, 2003, is acknowledged with appreciation. During the interview the references *Gustavsson et al.* and *Biondetti* were discussed. Applicant's representative pointed out that *Biondetti* is directed to opposed crown control rolls where the roll shells are movable to close a nip. In this situation it is necessary to have some means of controlling the position of one of the roll shells during nip loading to prevent oscillation of the roll shells. *Biondetti* accomplishes this by decreasing the supporting force of the lower roll as it moves upwardly. *Biondetti* and *Gustavsson et al.* both are directed to controlling nip force, not nip position, during the closing of a nip. It was agreed that the claims 12-26 are directed to process and apparatus for closing a shoe against a backing roll, as opposed to the prior art which is directed to controlling loading in a closed nip. *Biondetti* in combination with *Gustavsson et al.* does not teach how to control position during closing of a shoe nip in order to prevent uneven closing which causes paper breaks.

During the interview agreement was reached that the claims should be amended so that every claim included a belt which more clearly distinguishes the claims over crown control rolls such as shown in *Biondetti*. It was agreed (subject to a further search by the examiner) that the claims so amended would distinguish over two press rolls.

Claims 12 and 18 have been amended as suggested by the examiner to more particularly point out the invention includes a belt with in which the shoe his position, claimed 23 already contains the necessary limitation.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

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Applicant submits that the claims, as amended, are in condition for allowance.
Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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